

House Republican Press Release

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Witkos Supports Electric Rate Cut



Partisan Maneuver Stops Proposal to Lower Costs to Power Consumers

HARTFORD – With a 22% increase on ratepayers having been implemented this year, and power consumers continuing to be gouged by rising costs, legislative Democrats today blocked a proposal by House

Republicans that would reduce the public utilities gross earning tax on electric and power companies. The proposal, which would reduce the residential rate from 6.8% to 4.0%, and the commercial rate from 8.5% to 5.0%, was rejected this afternoon on a party-line vote.

The rate cut was offered as part of an amendment to another bill concerning electric distribution companies. Rather than go on the record opposing the amendment, the Democrat majority used a parliamentary procedure to shelve the entire bill.

“This is a proposal that would have saved Connecticut ratepayers an estimated \$60 million annually,” said Representative Kevin Witkos (R-Canton). “The majority party didn’t even want to discuss it.”

Witkos noted that Connecticut residents have been increasingly burdened by the approval of astronomical power rates this year, which began showing up in residents’ power bills over the winter.

“Power consumption is costing Connecticut residents more than ever,” said Witkos. “With a \$600 million surplus in place, there is no reason that this rate cut shouldn’t be passed on to taxpayers.”

Witkos noted that the high costs of utilities are making it harder for residents to make ends meet, and are hurting businesses across Connecticut. “If job creation and the economy are a top priority of the majority, then they could begin by taking this meaningful action to relieve a real burden on business,” he said.

The proposal would have reduced the gross earnings tax by 41%.